

and there is very little prospect of their withdrawing the obnoxious claims. On the other hand the Imperial Government have notified the United States of their objection to the consideration of these claims, and Mr. Gladstone stated in the House of Commons that his Government would remain firm in the position they had taken in regard to those claims. So the matter stands at present. While there is very little danger of the difficulty leading to war, every one will watch the progress of the matter with anxiety.—*Ingersoll Chronicle*.

THE GENEVA ARBITRATION.—The lofty sounding title of "The Joint High Commission" is already assuming the phase of a misnomer, if we are to judge by the utterance of the leading organs of public opinion in England. Low Joint Commission would seem to be the more appropriate so rapidly is it sinking in popular estimation. When the Alabama claims treaty was first published, not enough could be said in praise of the Commission by the journalistic advocates of the peace at any price policy. Canadian interests were sacrificed by the Fisheries clauses, but what of that trilling objection? The interests of the Colonies must always be treated as subordinate to Imperial policy, especially on questions which might involve the ultimatum of peace or war. The Geneva Conference, however, had scarcely had time to assemble and commenced deliberations on the liability of Great Britain for the depredations of the Southern Cruisers than, as if by magic, the discovery was made that our Yankee cousins had again sold the British Commissioners, and got them into a fix which they can hardly get out of without surrendering the just rights and honor of the British nation. A Telegram from London, dated Feb. 3rd, brings the astounding information that Chief Justice Cockburn has counselled the Gladstone Cabinet that England must recede from the Treaty of Washington immediately, leaving America to decide between a new treaty and war, the advice to repudiate the treaty being based upon the claims put forward by the representatives of the United States at the Conference for indirect damages, above and beyond the ascertained losses inflicted by the Alabama and her consorts, such as the cost incurred by the American Government in pursuit of those cruisers, and others equally untenable in the opinion of the English expounders of the obligations of International law. We are afraid, in the first place, that the news is too good to be true, that it has been manufactured as a feeler for public sentiment, and that the English Government is so inextricably committed to the treaty that she will submit to any penalty almost rather than revive the anti-British feeling in the United States. Such too appears to be the opinion at Washington, whence comes the information that the Government has no information which excites fears that the Geneva Arbitration will fail of its object notwithstanding the comments of the London press respecting the American statement of the case before that tribunal, and it is plainly stated that in commissioning the "High Commission," Queen Victoria pledged her royal word that whatever thing should be transacted and concluded by her High Commissioners should be agreed to, acknowledged, and regulated by her in the fullest manner, and that she would never suffer either in whole or in part any person whatsoever to infringe the same or act contrary thereto, as far as lay in her power.

This very appeal, however, leads to the suspicion that the American Government is quite aware that it has gone beyond the in-

tent and meaning of the treaty, by advancing its propositious claims for all indirect or constructive damages in accordance with the doctrine laid down in Congress by Mr. Sumner. It cannot be ignorant that the Queen and her Ministry would both be powerless to compel the ratification of a treaty embracing such dishonorable conditions if the public voice refused, through its representatives in Parliament, to be bound thereby, and that in all probability the Treaty of Washington in that case would be repudiated by England in the same way that the Congress of the United States repudiated some years since the Treaty of Ghent. Perhaps out of this unforeseen difficulty Canada may yet gather her advantage and save her Fisheries.—*Brampton Times*.

THE WASHINGTON TREATY.—The telegrams received from England and the United States within the last few days, on the subject of the Washington Treaty, are exciting. We have often felt constrained to say that this Treaty was the most dishonorable to Great Britain—the most utterly disgraceful that any negotiators or the part of that country had ever entered into. It now seems that the press and people of Britain are, with very remarkable unanimity, arriving at the same view of the case. Whilst it was supposed that Canada alone was to be the victim and the scape goat, the Treaty read all right in the eyes of the Gladstonian Whig Radicals of England. The *London Times* could coolly tell us that we should calmly acquiesce in giving away "the priceless heritage of our Fisheries" for the "general good." But when it comes out that the Treaty which, unquestionably and on the face of it, proposed to rob Canada, is also constructed to mean a demand upon Great Britain to hand over some six hundred million dollars—\$600,000,000—to the modest Yankees, the *Times* and all the rest of the English press are indignant. It is now seen that the Treaty effects British pockets and with a vengeance. For the man who could read the Washington Treaty and suppose for a moment that the United States would not make such a monstrous demand as they have made, we can entertain no more respectful feelings than that of utter contempt. The idea of men who have read history—who are familiar with the former Treaties and diplomatic relations between Britain and the United States, supposing that any result of the Geneva Arbitration which would satisfy the latter country could be other than an eternal disgrace to the former! One cannot wonder at the Halifax *Colonist* and such like weaklings that cling to Sir John A. McDonald's skirts so supposing; but that men who are called statesmen and that journals upon whose utterances the whole world waits with interest, should stultify themselves with such a delusion, is almost incredible. It would be difficult to find such an other instance of insatiation.

It is all over now, however. The telegrams to which we have referred, do not contain many words; but they comprise a great deal of meaning. The "Washington Treaty" is, as dead as *Balloghlanagh*. There will, of course, be more words about it; but they will end where they began. This cannot be other than a cause for congratulation to all true hearted Canadians, for although a few toadies of the McDonald Government piped up with their puny voices in praise of the Treaty, the great body of the people felt that by it they were wronged, insulted and disgraced.

Already there is much talk of war. We anticipate nothing of the kind. Doubtless there will be what Fluellan called "pravo words." The United States will threaten

menhously. It is possible the British Government may propose some less disgraceful settlement of the (pretended) "Alabama claims" than that now under consideration; but we incline to think that, at last, the British blood is up and will stand no more nonsense. Undoubtedly Great Britain will not go to war if it can be avoided with any semblance of honor; and the United States, notwithstanding demonstrations to the contrary, will not do so under any circumstances.

Thank fortune, however, the Washington Treaty is as dead as above said. For the reputation of humanity and out of regard for the blushes of the posterity of all those who were in any way concerned in framing it, it is to be regretted that all records of it could not be removed from the annals of our time.—*Acadian Recorder*.

The *Army and Navy Gazette* referring to the new Regulations issued regarding the practical training of Staff officers says: "They will be scarcely less interesting to that very large portion of the English public who now devote so much attention to all those reforms and changes which are intended to increase the efficiency of our army. It may be said that staff officers are the brain of an army. Any human frame, however gigantic and seemingly powerful, is really nothing but a mass of useless matter unless it possesses brain power to direct its force; so an army without a general staff is unwieldy and helpless—the greater its size, the greater its helplessness. After the Crimean war it was felt that something should be done to improve the general staff, and to ensure a special and, to a certain extent, a scientific education among all officers thus employed, while, at the same time practical qualifications would not be ignored. The Staff College was formed very much on the model of the French. After ten years trial the results were pronounced to be not altogether satisfactory. A royal commission was appointed to consider the entire subject of military education, and the Staff College was included in the scope of its enquiries. All the general officers examined by the commission, with one exception, pronounced the Staff College to be a failure; they complained that its students were book-worms rather than practical soldiers—estimable, zealous, but not half as useful or practical as the fox-hunting rough and ready soldiers of bygone days. The commission abolished the system of personal competition; they did endeavor to make the instruction at the college more practical; and now a final effort has been made by the Regulations just published, to render all staff officers acquainted with all arms of the service."

Lieutenant-General Von Storsche, the newly appointed minister of the German navy occupies the same relative position to Bismarck, as Delbruck, the Minister of State. Therewith, the appointment of von Storsche to the ministry becomes more a matter of form. He also does not draw the income of a Prussian or German minister, but ranks in this with Delbruck, for whom the *etat* specifies 600 thalers, but half of the salary of German ministers. The functions, as far as relates to the right of public law, are the same as those of the plenipotentiaries of the Bundesrath. It is apparent that by this appointment of a special naval minister, the German marine will acquire new importance and, therefore, the separation of the administration of marine affairs from those of the war departments will be hailed throughout Germany as a sound and sensible act of progress.